

REMARKS

Claims 3 and 29 have been withdrawn. Claims 1, 2, 4-11, 13-24, 26-28, and 30 are in this application, with claims 12 and 25 having been cancelled herein.

The drawings were objected to because they appear to fail to show Vector A in Figure 18. In response, Fig. 18 has been amended and a substitute sheet 15 of 22 is enclosed. It is submitted that no new matter has been added by this amendment to the drawings.

In the Office Action, the disclosure was objected to because of the following informalities: "at page 21, line 2, 'showning' should be 'showing', at page 25, line 8, 'asctive' should be 'active', at page 36, line 21, 'asmounts' should be 'amount'. In response, the sections of the disclosure indicated by the Examiner have been amended to overcome these objections.

Claims 15 and 18 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph, as failing to comply with the enablement requirement. In response, the rejection is respectfully traversed for at least the following reason. The Office Action alleges, "the specification does not describe selecting a foot sole suited to the road surface." The Examiner's attention is directed to page 44, paragraphs 3-6, and to Fig. 20D, where these features are taught in detail. Accordingly, it is respectfully requested that the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph, be withdrawn.

Claims 1, 2, 6-8, 16-20, 23-24, and 27 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Nishikawa et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,737,217). In response, claims 1 and 16 have been amended to incorporate the features of claims 12 and 25, respectively. The Examiner has indicated that original claims 12 and 25 contain allowable subject matter and would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. Accordingly, it is submitted that claims 1 and 16, as amended, patentably distinguish over Nishikawa and are allowable. Further, it is submitted that claims 2,

4-11, 13-14, 17-24, and 26-27, which depend from either claim 1 or claim 16 are similarly allowable.

Claim 30 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Osada (U.S. Patent No. 6,317,652). In response, the rejection is respectfully traversed for at least the following reasons.

Initially, claim 30 recites an “image processing means for comparing images...at a preset interval.” In contrast, because of the location of the imaging means 7 at the head of the robot taught by Osada, “a relative positional relationship between the foot 4 and the staircase 5 cannot be calculated” where the images do not also contain the foot of the robot. Accordingly, the image processing means of Osada does not function at a “preset interval,” rather, image processing is begun only upon entry of the foot of the robot into the visual field of the camera 7. *See* Col. 6, lns. 19-29

Further, Applicant’s attorneys respectfully disagree with the Examiner’s characterization of element 39 of Osada as a calculation means. As described in col. 6, lns. 19-29, positional relationship recognizing means 39 is for “recognizing the positional relationship between the visual field of the camera 7 and the leg 3 of the legged mobile robot 1.” And when both the “foot 4 and the staircase 5 can enter the visual field of the camera 7, an image input control means 35 of the controller 30 instructs the image data input unit 31 to capture image data from the camera 7.” Therefore, as best understood it is believed that the positional relationship recognizing means 39 cannot properly be characterized as a “calculating means for calculating the amount of relative movement relative to the road surface of the foot part at the preset time interval.” Accordingly, it is believed that claim 30 is distinguishable over Osada. It is thus respectfully requested that the rejection of claim 30 be withdrawn.

The Examiner has apparently made of record, but not applied, several documents. The Applicants appreciate the Examiner's implicit finding that these documents, whether considered alone or in combination with others, do not render the claims of the present application unpatentable.

In the event that the Examiner disagrees with any of the foregoing comments concerning the disclosures in the cited prior art, it is requested that the Examiner indicate where in the reference or references, there is the bases for a contrary view.

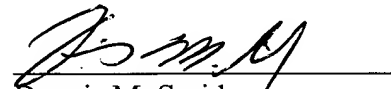
CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, it is believed that all of the claims in this application are patentable over the prior art, and early and favorable consideration thereof is solicited.

Please charge any fees incurred by reason of this response and not paid herewith to
Deposit Account No. 50-0320.

Respectfully submitted,
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